



NEWS

For Immediate Release

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Air District seeks public input on Clean Air, CARE Mitigation Plans

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is hosting the final dates in a series of community meetings to request input for two key air pollution reduction programs tonight in San Leandro and November 15 in San Francisco.

Both meetings will feature presentations on the District's 2009 Clean Air Plan and its Community Air Risk Evaluation (CARE) program. The San Francisco meeting at the Public Library in Bayview, previously scheduled for October 30, was rescheduled to include discussion of other community air quality concerns.

"These two programs will be the cornerstones of improved air quality policy planning in the Bay Area," said Lisa Fasano, Communications Director for the Air District. "Community participation and input are essential to helping the District serve communities in the region."

The 2009 Clean Air Plan will update the existing air quality plan to reduce ground-level ozone in the 2009-12 timeframe. Through the plan, a control strategy will be developed to reduce ozone precursors, while also addressing particulate matter, air toxics and greenhouse gases in a single integrated plan.

The Air District's Planning staff will present the draft plan and receive public comments. A final plan, incorporating community input, will be presented to the Air District's Board of Directors in 2009. For more information about the Clean Air Plan, contact Nadine Wilmot, Environmental Planner, at 415-749-5074 or nwilmot@baaqmd.gov or visit: http://www.baaqmd.gov/pln/plans/ozone/2009_strategy/.

The Community Air Risk Evaluation (CARE) program is designed to assess the sources of toxic air emissions, model and measure the air contaminants, evaluate the health risk to local communities, and implement mitigation measures to reduce air contaminant concentrations in these communities. One of the key components of CARE is the Mitigation Action Plan, which calls for allocating grants and incentives funds, collaborating with the community, working with health care professionals, and implementing rules and regulations to reduce emissions in priority communities.

Air District staff will provide an overview of the CARE program, provide an update on the status of grant efforts in priority communities and address community comments on local air quality issues. For more information about the CARE Program, contact Phil Martien, CARE Program Manager, at 415-749-4660 or pmartien@baaqmd.gov or visit: <http://www.baaqmd.gov/CARE>.

Tonight's meeting is from 5:30-7:30 at the San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. The meeting on Saturday, November 15 is from 10 a.m.-Noon at Bayview Opera House, 4705 Third St. in Bayview. Prior meetings in the series were held in Petaluma, Richmond, San Jose, San Leandro and West Oakland.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency chartered with protecting air quality in the Bay Area.

Para información en Español llame al 415-749-4609

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